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edge ['eɪdʒ] : having an edge planed
edgestitch \ 'eɪdʒ, stɪtʃ / vt : to seam or stitch for a
fold line of (a piece of cloth)
edgestone \ 'eɪdʒ, stəʊn / n 1 : CURBSTONE 2 : a
edge mill

edge strip *n* : a strap for a butt joint in rivets
when used for a fore-and-aft joint in a ship
edge tone *n* : a tone produced by an air stream
sharp edge (as in a flute)

edge \ej/ *n* - *s* often attrib (ME *egge*, fr. OE *ecg*; akin to OS *eggia* edge of a blade, edge, OHG *ecka*, ON & OFris *egg* L *acies* sharp edge, point, *acer* sharp, Gk *akmē* point, edge, LGk *akē* point, Skt *asri* corner, angle, edge) 1 **a** : the cutting side of the blade of an instrument (the ~ of an ax) **b** *archaic* : an

edged weapon or tool. **c** : the sharpness or degree of sharpness of a blade (the sickle has no ~) **d** (1) *obs* : ardor or inclination esp. for battle (2) **FORCE, EFFECTIVENESS** (local resistance blunted the ~ of radical legislation at Washington) : vigor or energy esp. of mind and body (he looked and acted flabby; the ~ of him was gone — Carleton Beals) : incisive or penetrating

quality (as of thought or expression) (the cutting ~ of Machiavelli's irony — E.R. Bentley) : a quality of hardness, harshness, or bite (his voice had an ~ like ice — John Buchan) (your goodness must have an ~ in it — else it is none — R.W. Emerson) (3) : keenness or intensity esp. of desire or enjoy-

quality (as of thought or expression) (the cutting ~ of Machiavelli's irony — E.R. Bentley) : a quality of hardness, harshness, or bite (his voice had an ~ like ice — John Buchan) (your goodness must have an ~ in it — else it is none — R.W. Emerson) (3) : keenness or intensity esp. of desire or enjoy-

ment (when they'd taken the ~ off their own hunger — Kenneth Roberts) : RELISH, ZEST, SAVOR (flying bombs . . . gave a brilliant ~ of chance to homely days and nights — Audrey Barker) : SPUR, STIMULUS (to give more ~ to the contest, he felt for his rival the bitter hate that . . . was typically Venetian

—T.B.Costain) **2 a** : the extreme verge or brink (as of a cliff or precipice) **b** : the crest of a ridge of hills : the escarpment of a plateau **3 a** : the line or point where a material object or area begins or ends : **BORDER** (the town stands on the ~ of a plain) (a smoldering hulk, burned to the water's

~ — H.A. Chippendale); also : the portion of the surface of an object or area that is adjacent to its border (walked on the ~ of the deck) b : a point near the beginning or the end (as of an era, condition, subject, or action) : a dividing line or line of transition from one state or condition to another : MARGIN

— often used in the phrase *on the edge* (science stood on the ~ of a major theoretical advance) (her body hovered delicately on the last ~ of childhood —Scott Fitzgerald) (many of the ranches . . . are on the ~ of bankruptcy —H.W. Baldwin) (was on the ~ of screaming) 4 obs : EDGINO,

BORDER 5 : a terminating border (the ~ of a tablecloth) : a line that is the intersection of two plane faces of a solid object (the ~s of a pyramid) : the relatively thin surface or side of any object bounded by plane surfaces (the ~ of a book)
6 a : the inside or outside verge of the blade of a skate b : a

skating stroke including appropriate body lean made on one edge of the blade of a skate (a forward inside ~); *also* : the resultant pattern cut in the ice 7 : the privilege in poker of betting last after the other players have revealed their intentions — called also *age* 8 : a favorable margin : ADVANTAGE

had the ~ on top speed — A.S. Kramer) (the open spaces that gave the suburb . . . an ~ over the city — Lewis Mumford) (a decisive ~ in military strength) 9 *slang* : a condition of being intoxicated : degree of intoxication (got a good ~ on — Ernest Hemingway) **SYN** see BORDER — on edge : nervous,

an edge to (asked him to ~ the ax) (hurt resentment *edged* his wife's voice — G.G.Carter) 2 *obs* : to set (one's teeth) on

edge 3 a (1) : to finish (an edge) with a binding, band, strip, or trimming (∼ a blouse with lace) (∼ a plywood counter)
(2) : to decorate an edge of (as a book) (3) : to level an edge of (a rafter); *also* : to square an edge of b : to serve as a border to : FRINGE (warehouses and terminals ∼ the 25-mile water-

front — L.A. Borah) : be on an edge of (grew up in a community still *edging* the wilderness — H.M. Kallen) (now *edging* sixty, he retains all his vigor) 4 *archaic* : to urge or egg on 5 : to move gradually or by pressing forward *edgewise* (*edged* his master out of hearing — George Meredith) (~ him off the road) 6 *archaic* : to force or urge on (the crowd) 7 *archaic* : to urge or egg on

road) : force (as from a position) by the application of pressure (*edging his foes out of every position of influence*) ; DISPLACE (machine-made muslins and calicoes have been *edging* out native-made muslins —John Murra) 6 a : to strike (a bowled ball) in cricket with the edge of the bat b : to incline (a ship) sideways so that one edge goes into the water of the

(a ski) sideways so that one edge cuts into the surface of the snow ~ *vi* : to move in one direction by degrees (edged over the open plains toward the western extremities of the country —Oscar Handlin) (< ~ away from his responsibilities) : move edgewise (began to ~ along the front of the bureau —Berton Roussé)

edgebone *var of* **AITCHBONE**
edged \ 'ejd sometimes 'ejɒd \ *adj* 1 : having a specified kind of edge, boundary, or border (black-edged) (rough-edged) (scalloped-edged) or number of edges (two-edged) 2 : SHARP, CUTTING (an ~ knife) : TRENCHANT (an ~ remark) (a

edge effect n 1 : the result of the presence of two adjoining plant communities (as in an ecotone) on the numbers and kinds of animals present in the immediate vicinity **2** : a special physical condition (as of electric surface density or turbulence)

edge tool *n* 1 : a tool with a sharp cutting plane, knife, or gouge 2 : a tool for forming an edge
edge : an edging tool
edge trim *n* : a contour (as bevel or round) the edge of a sole
edgewater \-'e-dj-ə-'wɔ:t- n : water underlying

edgeways or edgewise \ 'e-, -ə\ *adv*: with the foremost; on, by, or with the edge (saw edgeways); as if by an edge; **BARELY** — chiefly used in *word in edgeways* (had to raise his voice to

edge well *n*: a well on the edge of an oil or
 edg·i·ly 'eǝlə, -li *adv*: in an edgy manner
 edg·i·ness 'eǝnəs, -jɪn- *n* -ES 1: sharp
 of outline (the ~ of a fresh-cut gem — R.C.E.)

condition of being on edge : NERVOUSNESS
edging *n* -s [*edge* + *-ing*] 1 : something that
 or border: as a : a narrow piece of lace, fri
 with one straight edge used to finish or dec
 joining on clothing, upholstery, or curtains

plants, wood, metal or bricks used to define (bed or lawn) or the material used for such a solid wood squares set into the edge of a protect the veneer d : a narrow rounded strip (as of metal) on the edge of a flat su

edging box *n* : a dwarf box (*Buxus sempervirens*) that is used esp. for edging (as around a lawn)

edging grinder *n* : a cutting machine for gr
wood
edg-*ing-ly* *adv* : little by little : GRADUALLY
edgy \'ejē, -jī\ *adj* -ER/-EST 1 : SHARP, EDGED
a perceptive, ~ wit —*New Yorker* (the voc

occasion was raw and ~ —Irving Kolodin)
in line or outline 2 : being on edge : TENS
TABLE (looked well, though a little tired and
<the ~ days before World War I —*Saturday*
became ~ —Gordon Webber)

edn or eth \eth\ n-s [Icel eth]: a letter ð for:
across the simple *d* used in Old English
writing to represent an interdental fricative
national Phonetic alphabet to represent the
fricative (as in *then*) — compare THORN 3

ed-i-bil-i-ty \,edə'biləd-ē, -sīt-, -i\ *n* -ES : the
of being edible
'ed-i-bəl \,edəbəl\ *adj* [LL *edibilis*, fr. L *ede*.
-ible — more at EAT] : suitable by nature for
for human beings : NONPOISONOUS, EATABLE

edible \ " \ n -s : something that is edible (st
food to stricken families . . . only cold ~s
—*N.Y. Times*)
edible bird's nest n : the nest of various sp.

edible canna *n*: an Asiatic herb (*Canna edulis*) with its starchy rootstocks — see TOUS-LES-MOIS

edible dormouse *n* : any of various commi
mice (genus *Glis*) esp. of the Mediterranean
edible frog *n* : a European frog (*Rana escul*
edible galingale *n* : CHUFA
edible-podded pea \ 'dod-, -d- / or edible pod
edible-podded pea \ 'dod-, -d- / or edible pod

edible snail *n* : a snail used as food (as *Helix aspersa* of Europe)

dīcere, past part. of **dicere** to declare, dicere] 1 a : a pu by official ecclesiastical or state authority : a or ordinance by the sovereign power : the p law or rule of conduct made by competent a
base degree, prescript b : an order o

when suggesting such an official public notice won't notice it and issue bitter ~s about slo (night) 2 : the order of the court in Scots law commanding that notice of a pending suit be given to an absent or nonresident defendant

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Roget's II: The New Thesaurus, Third Edition. 1995.

edge

NOUN: 1. A dominating position, as in a conflict: advantage, better¹, bulge, draw, drop, superiority, upper hand, vantage. *Informal* : inside track, jump. See OVER. 2. A fairly narrow line or space forming a boundary: border, borderline, brim, brink, edging, fringe, margin, periphery, rim, verge. *Chiefly Military* : perimeter. See EDGE. 3. A cutting quality: bite, incisiveness, keenness, sharpness, sting. See SHARP. 4. The cutting part of a sharp instrument: blade. See SHARP. 5. The periphery of a city or town: environs, fringe, outskirt (often used in plural), skirt (used in plural), suburb (used in plural). See EDGE. 6. A transitional interval beyond which some new action or different state of affairs is likely to begin or occur: borderline, brink, point, threshold, verge. See EDGE.

VERB: 1. To put or form a border on: border, bound², fringe, margin, rim, skirt, verge. See EDGE. 2. To advance carefully and gradually: ease, sidle. See CAREFUL, MOVE. 3. To introduce gradually and slyly: foist, infiltrate, insinuate, wind², work, worm. See ENTER. 4. To give a sharp edge to: acuminate, hone¹, sharpen, whet. See SHARP.

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The American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language: Fourth Edition. 2000.

edge

PRONUNCIATION: ěj

NOUN: **1a.** A thin, sharpened side, as of the blade of a cutting instrument. **b.** The degree of sharpness of a cutting blade. **c.** A penetrating, incisive quality: *"His simplicity sets off the satire, and gives it a finer edge"* (William Hazlitt). **d.** A slight but noticeable sharpness or harshness: *His voice had an edge to it.* **2.** Keenness, as of desire or enjoyment; zest: *The brisk walk gave an edge to my appetite.* **3a.** The line of intersection of two surfaces: *the edge of a brick; the table's rounded edges.* **b.** A rim or brink: *the edge of a cliff.* **c.** The point at which something is likely to begin: *on the edge of war.* **4a.** The area or part away from the middle; an extremity: *lifted the carpet's edge.* **b.** A dividing line; a border: *a house on the edge of town.* See synonyms at **border.** **5.** A margin of superiority; an advantage: *a slight edge over the opposition.* **6.** A provocative or discomforting quality, as from audacity or innovativeness: *"Over all, the show will have a grittier edge"* (Constance C.R. White, *New York Times* January 2, 1996).

VERB: Inflected forms: **edged**, **edging**, **edges**

TRANSITIVE VERB: **1a.** To give an edge to (a blade); sharpen. **b.** To tilt (a ski or both skis) in such a way that an edge or both edges bite into the snow. **2a.** To put a border or edge on: *edged the quilt with embroidery.* **b.** To act as or be an edge of: *bushes that edged the garden path.* **3.** To advance or push slightly or gradually: *The dog edged the ball with its nose.* **4.** To trim or shape the edge of: *edge a lawn.*

INTRANSITIVE VERB: To move gradually or hesitantly: *The child edged toward the door.*

PHRASAL VERB: **edge out** To surpass or beat by a small margin: *The runner edged her*

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opponent out at the last moment.

IDIOMS: **on edge** Highly tense or nervous; irritable. **on the edge** 1. In a precarious position. 2. In a state of keen excitement, as from danger or risk: "*the excitement of combat, of living on the edge*" (Nelson DeMille).

ETYMOLOGY: Middle English *egge*, from Old English *ecg*. See **ak-** in Appendix I.

OTHER FORMS: **edge'less** —ADJECTIVE

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